PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph AFERZON Confirmation No.: 7576

Serial No.: 10/519,423 Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer

Filed: December 23, 2004 Group Art Unit: 3775

Docket No.: 1292.1236101 Customer No.: 33469

Title: SPINAL SUPPORT COUPLING DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 15th_ day of April 2009.

Name: Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed March 16, 2009, setting a one-month shortened statutory period for response ending April 16, 2009.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.